

Fact Sheet

Colorado River

The lower Colorado River system is shared by three states: Arizona, California and Nevada.

The lakes, reservoirs and river stretches that make up the Colorado River system make it one of the most popular recreational boating systems in the United States.

It attracts recreational boaters in staggering numbers and creates party atmospheres. The popularity of this river unfortunately results in significant numbers of boating accidents and fatalities every year.

If taken as its own boating entity, the Colorado River system is the second most dangerous waterway in America, including the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans, the Great Lakes and the Gulf of Mexico.



Boating Accident Statistics -- 2010

STATE	ACCIDENTS	INJURIES	FATALITIES
Arizona	83	52	0
California	32	28	3
Nevada	72	40	1
TOTALS	187	120	4

Contributing Factors for Accidents

State lines artificially slice up the system, and boating laws can be confusing to boaters.

Inattention and speed in congested space.

Crowded or blocked navigation areas reduce maneuvering space.

A “party atmosphere” creates an environment of distraction and danger.

The effects of alcohol while boating are amplified by motion and heat. Drunken boaters die each year, usually from falls overboard.

Other Interesting Facts

Fatalities and Life Jacket Use

The four people who died on the Colorado River drowned. All were found not wearing life jackets.

Colorado River Boaters

Yearly, about 80% of operators on the Colorado River come from California. Most operators traveled distances of 200-300 miles from their homes to the spots where accidents occurred. Primarily from the following counties: Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino.

